Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of controlling a social network access control list (ACL) for a shared resource, comprising:

        monitoring communications to and from a user;

        determining social network data from the communications to and from the user;

        determining an access level for the user based on the social network data; ~~and~~

        configuring the access control list to provide the user the access level determined for accessing the shared resource; and

        continuously updating the access control list to add and remove entries or to change access levels as the user transitions in and out of a social network or as communications between users changes.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the communications are e-mail communications.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the social network data includes at least one of identities of the user and a second user, a frequency of interaction for a time period, a chronology of the communications, a topic of the communications, and resources attached to the communications.

4. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the access level is selected from the group consisting of a read-only access, a read/write access, an execute access, a create access, an owner access, a no access, an all access, and a control access.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the access control list includes a user identification and the access level for the user.

6. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the resource is at least one of a file, a directory, a user, an input/output device, and a computer system.

7. (currently amended) A social network utilizing an access control list (ACL) for a shared resource, comprising:

a social network monitor to monitor communications to and from a user, and to determine social network data from the communications to and from the user; and

a social network access controller to determine an access level for the user based on the social network data, and to configure the access control list to provide the user the access level determined for accessing the shared resource, wherein the access control list is continuously updated to add and remove entries or to change access levels as the user transitions in and out of the social network or as communications between users changes.

8. (original) The social network according to claim 7, further including a shared resource provider to provide to the user access to the shared resource based on the access control list.

9. (original) The social network according to claim 7, wherein the social network monitor and the social network access controller reside on a single system.

10. (original) The social network according to claim 7, wherein the social network monitor and the social network access controller reside on separate systems.

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11. (original) The social network according to claim 7, wherein the communications are e-mail communications.

12. (original) The social network according to claim 7, wherein the social network data includes at least one of identities of the user and a second user, a frequency of interaction for a time period, a chronology of the communications, a topic of the communications, and resources attached to the communications.

13. (original) The social network according to claim 7, wherein the access level is selected from the group consisting of a read-only access, a read/write access, an execute access, a create access, an owner access, a no access, an all access, and a control access.

14. (original) The social network according to claim 7, wherein the access control list includes a user identification and the access level for the user.

15. (original) The social network according to claim 7, wherein the resource is at least one of a file, a directory, a user, an input/output device, and a computer system.

16. (currently amended) A communications system having a shared resource, comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

computer-readable program code, stored on the computer-readable medium, adapted to

be loaded and executed on the communications system, the computer-readable code performing,

monitoring communications to and from a user,

determining social network data from the communications to and from the user;

determining an access level for the user based on the social network data, ~~and~~

configuring an access control list to provide the user the access level determined

for accessing the shared resource; and

continuously updating the access control list to add and remove entries or to

change access levels as the user transitions in and out of a social network or as

communications between users changes.

17. (original) The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the communications

are e-mail communications.

18. (original) The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the social network

data includes at least one of identities of the user and a second user, a frequency of interaction

for a time period, a chronology of the communications, a topic of the communications, and

resources attached to the communications.

19. (original) The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the access

level is selected from the group consisting of a read/write access, a write-only access, an

execute access, a create access, an owner access, a no access, an all access, and a control

access.

20. (original) The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the access

control list includes a user identification and the access level for the user.

21. (original) The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the resource is

at least one of a file, a directory, a user, an input/output device, and a computer system.

22. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the social network data includes

monitoring communications for particular keyword(s), wherein the access level is granted

based on the number of occurrences of the particular keyword(s).

23. (new) The method according to claim 22, wherein different weights may be assigned

to different keywords, wherein certain keywords have higher weights than other

keywords.

24. (new) The social network according to claim 7, wherein the social network data

includes monitoring communications for particular keyword(s), wherein the access level

is granted based on the number of occurrences of the particular keyword(s).

25. (new) The social network according to claim 24, wherein different weights may be assigned to different keywords, wherein certain keywords have higher weights than other keywords.

26. (new) The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the social network data includes monitoring communications for particular keyword(s), wherein the access level is granted based on the number of occurrences of the particular keyword(s).

27. (new) The communications system according to claim 26, wherein different weights may be assigned to different keywords, wherein certain keywords have higher weights than other keywords.